

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /044 W

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R 141210Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4865

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: SHIP VISITS TO ALGIERS

1. DURING RECEPTION ON BOARD ITALIAN CRUSIER CURRENTLY ON COURTESY VISIT IN ALGIERS PORT, DCM AND MOHAMED ABERKANE, CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, CASUALLY DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR US SHIP VISITS.

2. WHEN DCM RAISED IDEA OF POSSIBLE US SHIP VISITS, ABERKANE LAUGHED, AND COMMENTED THAT IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE EL MOUDJAHID (GOA OFFICIAL DAILY) HEADLINE "SIXTH FLEET IN ALGIERS". IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S SUGGESTION THAT ALGIERS VISIT WOULD DEMONSTRATE US EVENHANDEDNESS AND PROVIDE COUNTERBALANCE TO VISITS TO MOROCCAN PORTS, ABERKANE RESPONDED THAT ALGERIA LIKED TO BE FIRST, AND FACT SHIPS VISITING TANGIERS AND CASABLANCA NOT CONDUCTIVE TO VISIT HERE.

3. DCM ASKED HOW US MIGHT PROCEED TOWARD OPENING UP ALGERIA TO SHIP VISITS. ABERKANE RESPONDED THAT WE SHOULD START OUT WITH "FEELERS" TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND PERHAPS OFFERING SOME SORT OF TRAINING PROGRAM TO ALGERIAN MILITARY. DCM ASKED IF ABERKANE THOUGHT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WOULD ACCEPT USG OFFER TO TRAIN ALGERIAN OFFICERS IF OFFER WERE MADE. ABERKANE REFLECTED FOR A MOMENT, AND REPLIED "NO, NOT AT THIS TIME".

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4. COMMENT: ABOVE CONVERSATION SUGGESTS THAT
PROSPECTS FOR SHIP VISITS TO ALGERIAN PORTS REMAIN
DIM. PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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